

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Fact Sheet

Fiscal Year (FY) 19/20

Overview of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

In the Central Valley region, there are over 30,000 irrigated agricultural operations on over 6 million acres of land. The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) regulates these operations to protect the beneficial uses of surface and groundwater.

Growers who are part of a third-party group (coalitions) are regulated under <u>one</u> <u>commodity-specific general order</u> and <u>seven geographic general orders</u>. <u>14 coalitions</u> help growers comply with the general orders. There is also a <u>general order for growers</u> who choose to be regulated individually.

Coalitions monitor surface and groundwater and develop plans to address water quality problems, while growers implement practices to protect water quality.

Program Goals

The goal of the ILRP is to prevent discharges from irrigated lands from causing adverse impacts to beneficial uses in surface waters and groundwater through order implementation, appropriate compliance and enforcement, and coordination with all interested parties. This includes working to implement the human right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water while also acknowledging the value of a healthy and sustainable irrigated agricultural industry in the Central Valley.

Implementation of the general orders includes oversight of coalition and grower activities and management of water quality data. Compliance and enforcement activities include maximizing grower enrollment and order compliance. Coordination is facilitated through regular stakeholder meetings and other venues.

Resources

Monitoring and Implementation

Interagency and Stakeholder Coordination

Data Management

Priority Projects

16%

Surface Water Quality Protection

Groundwater Quality Protection

Total

100% (11.2 PYs)

Compliance and Enforcement Grower Communications 10% Formal Enforcement 15% Informal Enforcement 15% Domestic Well Monitoring 20% Inspections 40% Total 100% (7.1 PYs)

FY 18/19 Accomplishments

- Development of a drinking water well monitoring program and implementation in the East San Joaquin Coalition
- Update of seven ILRP general orders to comply with State Board's precedential petition order.
- Approval of 46 surface water quality management plans, based on water quality data documenting compliance with trigger levels, coalition outreach, and grower implementation of management practices.
- Central Valley Water Board approval of the delisting of ten waterbody/pollutants from the CWA Section 303(d) impaired waters list based on completion of ILRP management plans.
- Initiation of groundwater trend monitoring for all 14 coalitions.
- Development of a new GIS enrollment tool for compliance efforts and completion of thousands of desktop inspections to identify operations that might need coverage with the ILRP.

Priority Projects 19/20

- Development of an alternative ILRP regulatory framework for low-risk commodity types – initial effort will focus on irrigated pasture in the upperwatersheds. Staff is working with UC researchers to develop irrigated pasture-specific templates and regulatory alternatives to bring to the October 2019 Board meeting.
- CV-SALTS Basin Plan Amendments Board staff is preparing for the potential State Board approval of the amendments and working on elements necessary to implement the amendment requirements within the ILRP.
- External review of the East San Joaquin Coalition's surface water monitoring framework – Board staff is working with our facilitator and the advisory group to hold the first external review panel meeting in the beginning of 2020. This project will be discussed during the December 2019 Board meeting.